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At least two military services are trying to develop a lie detector that would test a person without his knowing it.

And this secret project is so secret that not even high defense officials know about it.

Assistant Secretary of Defense Norman S. Paul said yesterday that he was upset by word of the project and would investigate.

A congressional subcommittee has learned of the secret project and has ordered an investigation.

"I want all of the facts," said Representative John E. Moss (Dem-Calif.), chairman of a House Government Operations subcommittee. "We have received preliminary information and I have no reason to doubt such a project is under way."

A device under study has been referred to as a "wobble seat"—a special chair with hidden monitoring equipment.

Committee investigators have established that one military service has actually initiated a study to develop an experimental model of the special chair.

Another service is considering a proposal by a private electronics firm to develop a prototype chair that would contain a hidden microphone and hidden sensors capable of recording pulse rate and respiration.

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Department directive that
was issued this week.

"If this report is accurate, the people engaged in such a project are just wasting their time."

(A directive, drafted by Paul and signed by Deputy Defense Secretary Cyrus Vance, bans clandestine monitoring of lie detector tests and lists safeguards for persons tested.)

All military services and the top-secret National Security Agency were reminded that an individual must give his consent in writing before being subjected to a polygraph examination.

The directive was issued after Army witnesses admitted at a Moss committee hearing that persons given lie detector tests are not told in advance that the examinations will be recorded by microphones and observed through two-way mirrors.

Mass's committee has questioned the validity of present lie detection techniques. They also have criticized the absence of government-wide standards and controls for use of polygraphs.